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2017

1-15-2017

ENG 3001-003: Advanced Composition

Stephen Swords

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Recommended Citation

Swords, Stephen, "ENG 3001-003: Advanced Composition" (2017). *Spring 2017*. 44.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2017/44

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Advance Composition Spring 2017

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45-12:30, 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

“You write the best you can, and you take your chances.” Raymond Carver

The overall purpose of this class is to help you develop your ability to share your writing with an audience. To this end, all papers written during the semester will be read out loud and shared with the class as a whole, which will enable everybody to work on being both a presenter and a listener. The papers that you'll write will be fairly short, around two single-spaced pages, and you'll also be writing regular responses to each other's work. Part of the purpose of the course is help everybody learn how to talk about another person's work and to have our own talked about, as well, not just in terms of constructive criticism or assessment, but in terms of some sort of genuine response. This is not the sort of writing workshop where writing will be bashed or negatively criticized.

Rules and regulations:

1. Attendance really counts in this class because of its format. It's especially important to be here on days that papers are due and as they are being read out loud. Missing classes, regularly showing up late, skipping if you're not reading that day, etc. will definitely hurt your final grade.
2. Deadlines also count, though there is some latitude to that. It's important to learn to write to a deadline, and it also makes everybody's life easier if all papers more or less come in at the same time.
3. On days papers or responses are due, everybody will be expected to show up in class with enough copies of their paper for the class as a whole.
4. Final grades for the course will be determined by your overall performance as a student throughout the semester—attendance, participation, response to suggestions, development from one paper to the next will all be taken into consideration. The papers themselves will be evaluated in several rounds of individual conferences.